GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5167
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
MULTICOLOUR RAIN
MINATI SEN;SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Multicolour rain` appearing in The Hindu dated July 29, 2001;

(b) if so, the details, and facts thereof;

(c) whether any high level central team has been deputed to study this strange phenomena;

(d) if so, the details alongwith its findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the findings of the study conducted in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) Yes, Sir. Reports of occurrence of rains of different shades of red in Kerala have come to the notice of the Government. The Centre for Earth Science Studies, an autonomous institution of the Government of Kerala, has undertaken investigations on coloured rain occurrence and has opined that the red colour in rain was probably due to meteoric dust and the chemical analysis of the samples collected showed that the material is largely biological and has been identified as fungal spores. The Centre for Earth Science Studies has taken up detailed investigations in the matter.